**Period 3: 1754-1800 Part II (through 1800)**

**British imperial attempts to reassert control over its colonies and the colonial reaction to these attempts produced a new American republic, along with struggles over the new nation’s social, political, and economic identity.**

Key Concepts

3.1 Britain’s victory over France in the imperial struggle for North America led to new conflicts among the British government, the North American colonists, and American Indians, culminating in the creation of a new nation, the United States.

* During and after the colonial war for independence, various tribes attempted to forge advantageous political alliances with one another and with European powers to protect their interests, limit migration of white settlers, and maintain their tribal lands.
* The continued presence of European powers in North America challenged the United States to find ways to safeguard its borders, maintain neutral trading rights, and promote its economics interests.
* The French Revolution’s spread throughout Europe and beyond helped fuel Americans’ debate not only about the nature of the United States’ domestic order but also about its proper role in the world.
* Although George Washington’s Farewell address warned about the dangers of divisive political parties and permanent foreign alliances, European conflict and tensions with Britain and France fueled increasingly bitter partisan debates throughout the 1790s.

3.2 In the late 18th century, new experiments with democratic ideas and republican forms of government, as well as other new religious, economic, and cultural ideas, challenged traditional imperial systems across the Atlantic World.

* Many new state constitutions and the national Articles of Confederation, reflecting republican fears of both centralized power and excessive popular influence, placed power in the hands of the legislative branch and maintained property qualifications for voting and citizenship.
* Difficulties over trade, finances, and interstate and foreign relations, as well as internal unrest, led to calls for significant revisions to the Articles of Confederation and a stronger central government.
* Delegates from the states worked through a series of compromises to form a Constitution for a new national government while providing limits on federal power.
* Calls during the ratification process for greater guarantees of rights resulted in the addition of a Bill of Rights shortly after the Constitution was adopted.
* As the first national administrations began to govern under the Constitution, continued debates about such issues as the relationship between the national government and the states, economic policy, and the conduct of foreign affairs led to the creation of political parties.
* During and after the American Revolution, an increased awareness of the inequalities in society motivated some individuals and groups to call for the abolition of slavery and greater political democracy in the new state and national governments.
* The constitutional framers postponed a solution to the problems of slavery and the slave trade, setting the stage for recurring conflicts over these issues in later years.
* The American Revolution and the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence had reverberations in France, Haiti, and Latin America, inspiring future rebellions.

3.3 Migration within North America, cooperative interaction, and competition for resources raised questions about boundaries and policies, intensified conflicts among peoples and nations, and led to contests over the creation of a multiethnic, multiracial national identity.

* The French withdrawal from North America and the subsequent attempt of various native groups to reassert their power over the interior of the continent resulted in new white-Indian conflicts along the western orders of British and, later, the U.S. colonial settlement and among settlers looking to assert more power in interior regions.
* As settlers moved westward during the 1780s, Congress enacted the Northwest Ordinance for admitting new states and sought to promote public education, the protection of private property, and the restriction of slavery in the Northwest Territory.
* The Constitution’s failure to precisely define the relationship between American Indian tribes and the national government led to problems regarding treaties and Indian legal claims relating to the seizure of Indian lands.
* As western settlers sought free navigation of the Mississippi River, the United States forged diplomatic initiatives to manage the conflict with Spain and to deal with the continued British presence on the American continent.
* As national political institutions developed in the new United States, varying regionally based positions on economic, political, social, and foreign policy issues promoted the development of political parties.
* The expansion of slavery in the lower South and adjacent western lands, and its gradual disappearance elsewhere, began to create distinctive regional attitudes toward the institution.
* Enlightenment ideas and women’s experiences in the movement for independence promoted an ideal of “republican motherhood,” which called on white women to maintain and teach republican values within the family and granted women a new importance in American political culture.

Essential Information:

**A. What event prompted delegates to write a new constitution?**

Daniel Shays led a rebellion of debtor farmers against the Massachusetts government in the winter of 1786-87. Although the rebellion was unsuccessful, it made many prominent Americans aware that the Confederation Congress was powerless to protect the nation from invasion or domestic violence.

**B. Who attended the Constitutional Convention?**

Although Rhode Island boycotted the convention, fifty-five delegates from twelve states attended the

Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787. George Washington of Virginia was chosen to preside. Delegates to the convention included Alexander Hamilton of New York who spoke in favor of a strong central government, Ben Franklin of Pennsylvania who gave prestige to the convention, and James Madison of Virginia who was considered the “Father of the Constitution.” Several notable leaders such as John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Patrick Henry did not attend.

**C. What was the Virginia Plan?**

Edmund Randolph of Virginia introduced a plan to create a new central government with a bicameral (two house) legislature, an executive elected by the legislature, and a separate judiciary. In Randolph’s plan the lower house would be elected by the people and the upper house would be elected by the lower house. Representation in both houses of the legislature would be based on each state’s population.

**D. What was the New Jersey Plan?**

William Paterson of New Jersey introduced a plan expressing the desire of small states for equal representation in a unicameral (one house) legislature.

**E. What was the Great Compromise?**

Delegates from Connecticut introduced a compromise to settle the argument between big states and little states over representation in Congress. By the terms of the compromise the federal legislature would be bicameral with an upper house (the Senate) based on equal representation from each state and a lower house (the House of Representatives) based on population.

**F. What was the Three-Fifths Compromise?**

In the Three-Fifths Compromise delegates decided to count slaves as three-fifths of a person for both taxation and representation.

**G. What form of government was created by the U.S. Constitution?**

The Constitution created a republican form of government based on a separation of powers between three

branches of government (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial). In addition, the Constitution created a federal system of government that separated powers between a national government and state governments.

**H. What arguments were presented in the debate over ratification of the U.S. Constitution?**

Anti-Federalists, who opposed the Constitution, believed the new government would destroy the power of the states and would not protect individual rights. Federalists, who supported the Constitution, believed that strengthening the central government would provide the stability and power to prevent foreign domination and domestic rebellion. In addition, Federalists believed that by creating a republican government with limited power, the rights of the people could not be violated.

**I. When was the U.S. Constitution ratified?**

The Constitution was ratified in 1788 after the required nine of thirteen states voted for adopting the new form of government. Only two states—Rhode Island and North Carolina—voted against ratification. The new government took power in 1789.

Significant Events

1. Annapolis Convention, 1786

2. Shays’ Rebellion, 1786-1787

3. Constitutional Convention, 1787

4. Ratification of the Constitution, 1788

5. The French Revolution

Important People

5. George Washington

6. Alexander Hamilton

7. Ben Franklin

8. James Madison

9. John Jay

**Additional Information**

10. Articles of Confederation

11. Independence Hall, Philadelphia

12. Virginia Plan

13. New Jersey Plan

14. Great Compromise

15. Three-Fifths Compromise

16. Republican form of government

17. Federal system of government

18. Separation of powers

19. Three branches of government

20. *The Federalist Papers*

21. Ratification

22. Federalists / Anti-Federalists

23. Old Northwest

24. Land Ordinance of 1785

25. Northwest Ordinance of 1787

26. Slave Trade

27. Republican Motherhood

28. Bill of Rights

29. Judiciary Act of 1789

30. Assumption

31. Tariff

32. Excise tax

33. Bank of the United States

34. Whiskey Rebellion

35. Proclamation of Neutrality 1793

36. Battle of Fallen Timbers

37. Treaty of Greenville

38. Jay’s Treaty

39. Pinckney’s Treaty

40. Washington’s Farewell Address

41. The XYZ Affair

42. Alien Laws

43. Sedition Act

44. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions